

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-05 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 280620Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 215

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10078

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN IN

SUBJECT: MADRAS GETS RAIN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY CALCUTTA FROM MADRAS
JUL 25 REPEATED:

QUOTE

MADRAS 1037

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, IN

SUBJECT: MADRAS GETS RAIN

1. UNDER INFLUENCE OF LOW PRESSURE TROUGH OVER BAY OF BENGAL
OFF TAMIL NADU AND SOUTHERN ANDHRA PRADESH COASTS, AND
CYCLONIC CIRCULATION IN UPPER AIR, WIDESPREAD RAIN HAS
FALLEN IN MOST PARTS OF TAMIL NADU. MADRAS CITY HAS HAD
HEAVY SHOWERS PAST TWO DAYS, WITH SOME AREAS RECEIVING
AS MUCH AS 2.7 INCHES JULY 24. CITY OFFICIALS, THOUGH STILL
CAUTIOUS, HAVE SAID THEY CAN KEEP SUPPLYING WATER ON
ALTERNATE DAYS NOW INSTEAD OF CUTTINGBACK TO ONCE IN THREE
DAYS AT THE END OF THE MONTH AS HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED. MADURAI
AND RAMNAD DISTRICTS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE STATE HAVE
HAD HEAVY RAIN FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS.

2. ATMOSPHERICS INC. CLOUD SEEDERS ARE NOT CLAIMING ANY CREDIT
FOR THE WELCOME RAINS, BUT HAVE BEEN BUSY TRYING TO SQUEEZE
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THE LAST DROP OUT OF THE CLOUDS BEFORE THEY MOVE PAST THE AREAS

FEEDING CITY'S RESERVOIRS. CHIEF ENGINEER FRED CLARK TOLD US THAT AFTER GETTING A BETTER LOOK AT THE LAY OF THE LAND, TEAM HAS NOW CONCLUDED THAT EFFECTIVE CATCHMENT AREA FOR THE THREE MAIN RESERVOIRS IS BIGGER THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED, PERHAPS AS MUCH AS 120 SQUARE MILES. THE RED HILLS LAKE IS A SHALLOW TANK BUILT UP ON TOP OF FLAT LAND, AND AS SUCH REALLY HAS NO NATURAL DRAINAGE INTO IT. HOWEVER, THE POONDI RESERVOIR IS AT THE BASE OF HILLS AND IS FED BY THREE RIVERS, SO SEEDING OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED THERE. OPERATIONS OVER LAST WEEKEND CONTRIBUTED TO ADDING 17 INCHES OF WATER TO THE LEVEL AT THE DAM, AS REPORTED, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT 250 MILLION GALLONS. AS OF THE MORNING OF JULY 24, BEFORE MOST OF THE INFLOW FROM THAT DAY'S RAINS REACHED POONDI, THE VOLUME OF WATER IN THE RESERVOIR HAD INCREASED TO 412 GALLONS. MADRAS CORPORATION OFFICIALS ARE NOW EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVING THIS WATER TO THE RED HILLS LAKE, 21 MILES AWAY, THROUGH A LINED CHANNEL TO CUT SEEPAGE LOSSES. SIGNED EAVES

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